

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-8. (Cancelled).

9. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing restenosis ~~by at least 50%~~ in a patient having suffered a vascular injury, which comprises the step of administering an effective dose of 17- β estradiol or a derivative thereof at an injured site in the lumen of a blood vessel of to said patient.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein said dose is administered in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claims 11-14. (Cancelled).

15. (New) A method as defined in claim 9, wherein 17- β estradiol or a derivative thereof is present in a dose unit of 1 to 5000 $\mu\text{g}/\text{Kg}$ of patient's body weight.

16. (New) A method as defined in claim 9, wherein 17- β estradiol or a derivative thereof is present in a dose unit of 10 to 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{Kg}$ of patient's body weight.

17. (New) A method as defined in claim 9, wherein 17- β estradiol or a derivative thereof is present in a dose unit of 10 to 30 $\mu\text{g}/\text{Kg}$ of patient's body weight.

18. (New) A method as defined in claim 9, which comprises a single administration.

19. (New) A method as defined in claim 9, wherein said 17- β estradiol or derivative thereof is administered with a device.

20. (New) A method as defined in claim 19, wherein the device is a catheter containing said 17- β estradiol or derivative thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

21. (New) A method as defined in claim 19, wherein the device is a stent coated with said 17- β estradiol or derivative thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
22. (New) A method as defined in claim 9, wherein said 17- β estradiol or derivative thereof is administered following percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA).
23. (New) A method as defined in claim 9, wherein said 17- β estradiol or derivative thereof is administered simultaneously to percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA).
24. (New) A method as defined in claim 9, wherein said method uses 17- β estradiol.
25. (New) A method as defined in claim 24, wherein 17- β estradiol is present in a dose unit of 1 to 5000 $\mu\text{g}/\text{Kg}$ of patient's body weight.
26. (New) A method as defined in claim 24, wherein 17- β estradiol is present in a dose unit of 10 to 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{Kg}$ of patient's body weight.
27. (New) A method as defined in claim 24, wherein 17- β estradiol is present in a dose unit of 10 to 30 $\mu\text{g}/\text{Kg}$ of patient's body weight.
28. (New) A method as defined in claim 24, which comprises a single administration.
29. (New) A method as defined in claim 24, wherein 17- β estradiol is administered with a device.
30. (New) A method as defined in claim 29, wherein the device is a catheter containing said 17- β estradiol, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
31. (New) A method as defined in claim 29, wherein the device is a stent coated with said 17- β estradiol, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

32. (New) A method as defined in claim 24, wherein said 17- β estradiol is administered following percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA).

33. (New) A method as defined in claim 24, wherein said 17- β estradiol is administered simultaneously to percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA).